

L: A 4-1

17 NOV 1958

Dr. Francis K. Ballaine
Dean of the College
Adelphi College
Garden City, New York

Dear Dean Ballaine:

Your letter of October 17, 1958, addressed to Mr. Dulles, was referred to me for reply.

I am pleased to note your interest in exploring the language-training needs of government personnel. Further action will be needed if this country is to remedy its deficiencies in a number of important languages including, with the possible exception of Tagalog, those you have identified.

I find it difficult to list in any order of priority the languages which are important for government personnel, but there is a study under way which may provide useful guidance. The Department of Health, Education and Welfare has contracted recently with the American Council of Learned Societies to survey language needs in government. The survey is being conducted by a committee headed by Dr. W. Freeman Twaddell of Brown University, and is intended to provide a basis for satisfying the condition of the National Defense Education Act to which you refer. It is now in its early stages but a report is expected in February 1959. I understand that the survey eventually will cover the needs of American business as well, and some preliminary findings in this respect may be included in the February report.

You may wish to add to your information on languages now being taught, these facts: the Foreign Service Institute of the Department of State offers instruction in Indonesian, the official language of Indonesia, and Cambodian (Khmer); and the National Security Agency has limited facilities for teaching Amharic.

Sincerely,

SIGNED

MATTHEW BAIRD
Director of Training

STATINTL

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